

**Upper Valley Dog Park Supporters
Annual Membership Meeting
October 25, 2016
6:30pm
Town of Hartford Building**

Attendees:

Tad Nunez
Linda Hendelton
Jerry Hendelton
Pat Tilton
Dan Clark
Gaylord Newcity, President
Toni Ritchie,
Wendy Smith
Amanda Childress

Agenda:

Call to order
Welcome
Introductions
Minutes/Reports
Discussion on Fundraising
Discussion on raising membership
Discussion of dog park rules and enforcement
Election of officers
Next meeting - Adjournment

Action Items

- Amanda and Addi will get together, merge together spreadsheets of members, and mail out to members who have not renewed in the past year.
- Tad will talk with Finance and Parks/Rec about getting the dog park setup with online payments and will inquire about using the Town of Hartford site.
- Tad will figure out if we can use the Square on Saturday for the Dogaween.
- Ted will research dog park related ordinances.
 - Tad will need to follow up with Dillon Nutting about possibilities. Hoping to plow a path all the way to the gates of the park, then plow out the parking lot close to the Dog Park entrance.
- Tad will ask Parks and Rec to drop off barricades and road stakes for winter operations.
- Dan will setup Winter Barricades, etc in Nov 15. And get Jace and Mark to join him.
- Dan will share the plan for Winter operations with the dog park.
- Get keys back from Marina. Need to swap in new lock key to Marina's set.
- Tad and Dan will coordinate to buy cases of poop bags.
- Tad will buy spare gate hinges with the town credit card.

Meeting Notes

6:38pm Call to Order.

Minutes/Reports - Reviewed minutes from Sept 28 meeting. OK.

Discussion on Fundraising

Current balance on account is \$8,084.90 as of 10/7/2016.

\$113 deposited to the dog park accounts since July 1, 2016. Some deposits outstanding. Cost running \$3500 to \$4000. Most costs are in plowing, mowing, poop bags, and waste.

Interest in doing a membership mailing?

Amanda and Addi will get together, merge together spreadsheets of members, and mail out to members who have not renewed in the past year.

Discussion on Raising Membership

Brainstorm benefits for members:

- Ask local businesses for some discounts for dog park members (1%, West Lebanon, Tractor Supply (?), Steve's Pet Shop, Lebanon Aquarium and Pet Store.)

- Promote the benefit of having a dog park before promoting other benefits for members?

Other ways to pay for membership? The dog park itself should be the first benefit of being a member.

- Parks & Rec can take electronic payments.

Tad will talk with Finance and Parks/Rec about getting the dog park setup with online payments and will inquire about using the Town of Hartford site.

Tad will figure out if we can use the Square on Saturday for the Dogaween.

Upcoming Events

Halloween coming up Oct 29 from 12-3pm. Donations accepted at event. Membership drive for January 2017 memberships at Halloween party. Memberships are \$25 per year.

Dog park clean up day is happening on November 5, 2017 at 9am. Rain date will be Nov 6 at 9am.

Discussion of Dog Park Rules and Enforcement

Observing people breaking the rules? How to handle that?

Enfield dog park has vests for volunteers to enforce the rules. Mixed bag of results: positive interactions around learning, help and kindness. Negative interactions around enforcing rules and asking people to leave.

Build an orientation on the rules of the park and how to approach someone when they may be breaking the rule. Reinforce the reason for the rules is to provide a safe environment. Education and modeling positive behavior is key to enforcement. Keep the Hartford Police Non-emergency number in your phone and call if there are urgent, but not emergency issues: [802-295-9425](tel:802-295-9425)

Problems with these rules:

- Children younger than 8 years in the park.

- Smoking in the park.

- Unleashed dogs in the parking lot.

Is there something like a 3-strikes you're out rule? Protective order or restraining order versus a "soft" ask.

Issuing "warnings?" Must come from police.

Ted will research dog park related ordinances.

New business/Old Business:

Idea: Fore-U is interested in hosting events to raise funds for the dog park, e.g. Dog park support night - make a donation to the dog park get free ice cream for your dog.

Idea: Question about winter plowing.

Old Business: Poop bag purchasing. 2-year supply for town and dog park saves \$200. 30-case order. Dog park uses 5 cases per year, town uses 10 cases per year. 2-years cost for dog park will be \$1200. Buy in bulk for 2 years in collaboration with the town? Yes. Current poop bag inventory will last us through approximately May. OK from Gaylord to buy the bags.

Tad and Dan will coordinate to buy cases of poop bags.

Gate Hinges. We used the spare hinge in late Spring and we need to reorder backup. They cost \$80 with free shipping. Yes. Reorder 2.

Tad will buy spare gate hinges with the town credit card.

GoDaddy - Credit card information. Setup with Town of Hartford? Do we want to have town of Hartford setup to pay for the GoDaddy accounts?

Question about winter plowing: Keep with the status quo with having the barricades part way down the parking lot or all the way down to the culvert?

Tad will need to follow up with Dillon Nutting about possibilities. Hoping to plow a path all the way to the gates of the park, then plow out the parking lot close to the Dog Park entrance.

Tad will ask Parks and Rec to drop off barricades and road stakes for winter operations.

Dan will setup Winter Barricades, etc in Nov 15. And get Jace and Mark to join him.

Jace.2003@yahoo.com 603.448.3929.

Dan will share the plan for Winter operations with the dog park.

Get keys back from Marina. Need to swap in new lock key to Marina's set.

Vests: Suggest having 2 at the park.

Jerry has a list of local businesses that will donate Flowers for the park.

Need to reset the dog park light to start at 4pm to 9pm to starting on clean up day.

Get an additional light at the park? Good idea for future project. Add a second light? Need to discuss at future meetings.

Dan will need to handoff his keys.

Important to enforce March 1 close for mud season.

Election of Officers

President: Gaylord Newcity

Vice President: (Unfilled)

Director of Operations: Dan Clark keeping position through Nov 15.

Membership/Secretary: Addi Faerber

Events/Fundraising: Wendy Smith

Communications: Toni Richie

The position of Vice President will need to be filled. Gaylord will work to find a suitable candidate.

Voting on the slate of officers: Addi moved to vote. 2nd from Gaylord. 7 of 7 members present voted for the slate for 2017 candidates.

Gaylord will call a meeting in January 2017 at the latest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.